

Fremont Makes "Hottest Towns" List

Fremont was recently named among the top 10 most desirable places to live in the western United States among cities with a population of over 100,000 according to CNN/Money magazine. Congratulations!



Don't Miss Fremont's State of the City Address

Fremont's mayor will present the annual State of the City Address to the Fremont community, and all Fremont residents are invited to attend:

Wednesday, March 31
6:00 p.m.

City Hall, in the City Council Chambers
3300 Capitol Avenue

In addition, the Fremont Chamber of Commerce will feature the State of the City Address during its Public Policy Forum luncheon on April 2. To purchase tickets, please contact the Chamber of Commerce at 795-2244 or www.fremontbusiness.com.

"Toe of the Hill" Line Changes

In November of 2002, Fremont voters approved Measure T, the Hill Area Initiative. Measure T modified the 1981 Hill Area Initiative that had governed development in Fremont's hill area for over twenty years. Since the approval of Measure T, City staff has been working to implement the initiative's new regulations by drafting changes to the City's General Plan, Zoning Ordinance and development policies. These proposed changes will soon be reviewed by the Planning Commission and City Council.

Measure T makes several changes to hill area development regulations, including modifying the definition of the "Toe of the Hill." This definition is important because the initiative's regulations apply to properties above the "Toe of the Hill" line. The new definition is "a line along the base of the hills where the natural grade first becomes twenty percent (20%) or more on the western side of the Hill Area from the Fremont-Union City boundary to the Alameda-Santa Clara County boundary, and on both sides of Niles Canyon and Route 680 east of Mission Boulevard to the Fremont city limits."

Properties above the Toe of the Hill line are subject to rezoning, as well as development regulations set forth in Measure T, including regulation of parcel sizes and limits on development in order to protect views. City staff is in the process of creating a map to show the proposed location of the Toe of the Hill line and anticipates bringing this map to the Planning Commission and City Council in May and June for consideration. Prior to then, the City will hold a public meeting and invite all interested parties to review the proposed map and new Toe of the Hill line.

For more information, please visit the City's website at www.fremont.gov/CurrentNews.

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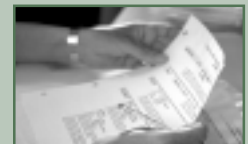
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City Manager's Message



The City of Fremont provides great value for our residents' dollars. We have around-the-clock police and fire services (we had 78,000 calls for police service and 12,000 calls for fire and paramedic services last year), we keep 16,000 street lights lit,

and we maintain 52 parks, 475 miles of streets, and 45,000 trees. We also provide high-quality recreation programs, senior services, and land-use planning. Property taxes cover only one-third of the cost of City services. The rest comes from sales taxes, vehicle license fees, business taxes, and franchise fees.

How much do Fremont residents pay for all these great City services? It's less than you think. The average Fremont household pays about \$33 a month in property taxes to the City of Fremont. The rest of your property tax bill goes to the schools, the county, the library, and special districts like BART and AC Transit.

Because of the method the Legislature used to implement Proposition 13 in 1978, and Fremont's historically low tax base, the City of Fremont receives just 15% of every property tax dollar our residents pay. Pleasanton, in contrast, gets 25% of every property tax dollar, while Berkeley gets 33%. The result is that Fremont has far fewer dollars to spend on city services than many other cities.

That's why we make sure that we spend our limited tax dollars on the basics—police, fire, and maintenance of the City's streets, parks, medians, and buildings. In the boom times of the mid-to-late 1990s, when our revenues were strong, we invested the "extra" dollars to pave streets, add police officers, and add firefighters for a fire station in the industrial area west of I-880. With the significant drop in City revenues due to State takeaways and a dramatic reduction in sales tax revenues, difficult service choices have been made. However, the City's priorities remain police, fire, and maintenance. These services help keep Fremont safe and beautiful and make it a great place to live and work.

Jan
Jan Perkins
City Manager

City Budget 101

Test your knowledge about the City's budget by completing our Budget Quiz on the last page.

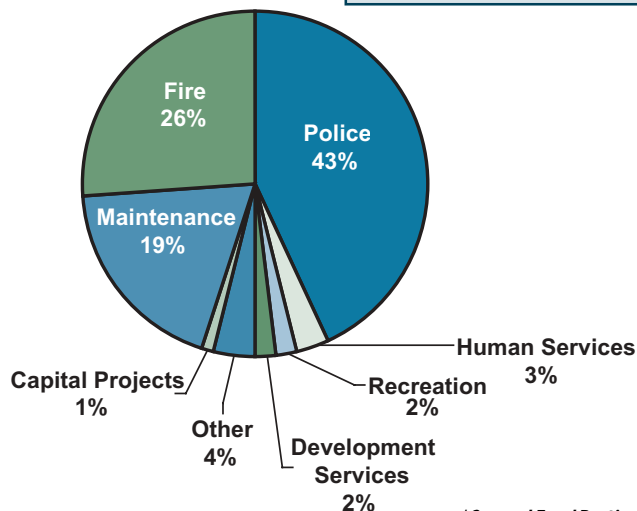


Did You Know...?

Where the City's Money Goes*

July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004:
\$106.8 million

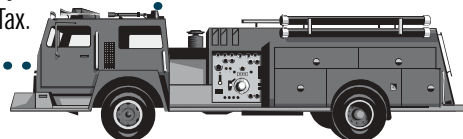
88% of the City's General Fund supports Police, Fire and Maintenance services.



*General Fund Portion Only

Fire Fact

- The annual paramedic tax of \$13.42 that Fremont homeowners pay covers only \$1 million of the \$23 million Fire Department budget. To learn more about this tax, visit the City's website at www.fremont.gov/Fire/ParamedicTax.



City of Fremont

The City Council meets the first, second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 3300 Capitol Avenue. (Work sessions are held on the third Tuesday of each month, times vary.) Meetings are broadcast over Cable TV Channel 27.

City Council

Gus Morrison, Mayor
Steve Cho, Vice Mayor
Bob Wasserman, Bill Pease, Dominic Dutra

City Manager

Jan Perkins

Fremont City News

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City Address and Phone Number

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City Hall News

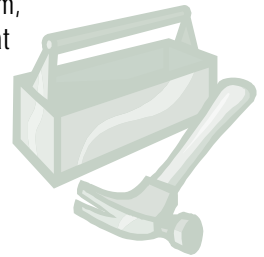


Streamlined Building Permit Process for Homeowners

Are you a homeowner planning to do your own home improvements such as replace your water heater, water piping or gas piping at home? Is there a bathroom or kitchen remodel planned where the work does not involve any structural modifications? If so, you may want to take advantage of a new program offered by the City.

The new "Field Permit" streamlines the permitting process for homeowners by saving people a trip to City Hall for a building permit. Under this program, building inspectors come to your home to do the inspection and bring the permit application documents for you to complete. Payment (personal check only for this type of permit) is required at the time of inspection and you will be issued a receipt. Once the application is processed in the office, a finalized copy will be mailed.

For more information about this program, please visit the City's website at www.fremont.gov/Permits/buildingpermits. Or contact Building and Safety Support Specialist Christine Civiletti at cciviletti@ci.fremont.ca.us or at 494-4400.



Fremont Sweeps Streets Clean

The City's street sweeping crew sweeps Fremont City streets every month. The schedule is based on the day of the month, not on the actual date. For example, if you live in an area designated "Day 1," your street is swept on the first Monday of the month. If it's "Day 2," your street is swept on the first Tuesday of the month. This schedule continues for 20 days (Monday through Friday only) during each and every month.

If you are interested in learning your street's sweeping day, please contact the City's Maintenance Office at 713-5700 or send an email to COFMaint@ci.fremont.ca.us.

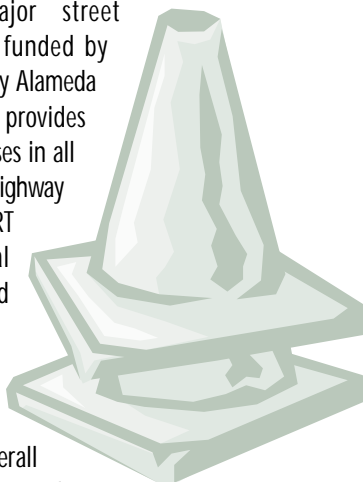


Monthly street sweeping keeps Fremont streets clean and clutter-free.

Measure B Funds Street Projects

The City of Fremont's Maintenance Division recently completed two major street maintenance projects partially funded by Measure B (reauthorized in 2000 by Alameda County voters). This tax measure provides revenues for transportation purposes in all areas of Alameda County, including highway widening and rehabilitation, BART extensions, maintenance of local streets and roads, AC Transit and local paratransit services.

Without the Measure B funds, fewer Fremont streets would be maintained each year and the overall street network would begin to decline and deteriorate much sooner than expected. Thanks to Measure B funds, Fremont's streets will be in great shape.



Fire Safety Bond Progress

Implementation of the \$51 million Fire Safety Bond program, passed in November 2002, is in full swing. Over the next five years, the bond will allow the City to replace three old, small stations; rebuild seven stations; and build a new public safety training facility.

Designs are complete on seismic upgrades for four stations. Two of those will be under construction this year. A complete overhaul of a fifth station is in design and should also be under construction by the end of the year.

The Bond program also includes the construction of three replacement fire stations. The City acquired a one acre parcel across from Brookvale Shopping Center to replace the North Fremont Fire Station on Darwin Avenue, and is working on acquiring a new site for the Centerville Fire Station. Staff will be evaluating the option of rebuilding the Niles Fire Station on its existing site. For all three new construction projects, the design team will work with prospective neighbors and other interested parties.

For more information, please contact Fire Bond Project Manager Jake Lavin at jlavin@ci.fremont.ca.us or 494-4428, Fire Captain Mike Avila at mavila@ci.fremont.ca.us or 494-4211, or Senior Civil Engineer Ron Fong at rfong@ci.fremont.ca.us or 494-4698. Or, visit the City's website at

www.fremont.gov/Fire/FireSafetyBond.

Our Community

Fremont Park Ranger Receives Prestigious Honor

Sandy Ferreira, the City's Senior Park Ranger, is among the ten women who were inducted into the 2004 Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame on March 6. Recognized in the field of "environment," Sandy's honor is well deserving.

Working for the City for the past 15 years, Sandy splits her time between working as a park ranger and teaching clean water and education at Stiver's Lagoon Nature Area for the City's Environmental Services Division. In addition, she served as the district manager of Alameda County's California Wood Duck Program and has led volunteers in the creation of the Tree Swallow Nest Box Program at Fremont's Central Park. Sandy is also active with local Eagle Scout projects. Congratulations Sandy!

Sandy educates students about plants at Stiver's Lagoon Nature Area.



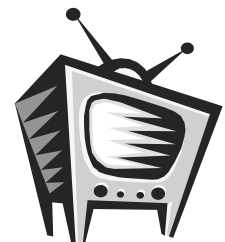
Volunteers Needed for Fourth of July Parade

Fremont's 4th of July Parade is being organized and funded 100% by the community. This year's parade organizers, John Smith and Bernadette Chinn, are looking for volunteers to help with the 2004 parade in North Fremont, including the neighborhoods of Ardenwood, Lakes & Birds, Northgate, Cabrillo, and Brookvale. North Fremont is the sixth district to hold the annual parade.

If you are interested in helping with the event or want more information, please contact John Smith at Jsmith1152@aol.com or 791-2179, or Bernadette Chinn at mahal2022@aol.com or 790-3944.

Watch TV Channel 27: Focus on Fremont

Missed the latest City Council or Planning Commission meeting? Don't worry. Tune in to Cable TV Channel 27 to view the latest schedule on when the meetings will be rebroadcast.



Volunteers Provide Valuable Community Service

More than 1,500 People Participated in City Volunteer Program

Volunteering is a great way to get involved with the community and to help make Fremont a better place to live, work and play.

During the week of April 18-24, National Volunteer Week kicks off its 31-year tradition of recognizing volunteer efforts across the country. This is a great time to explore numerous ways you can help with the City of Fremont's successful City Government Volunteer Program. In 2003, this program involved more than 1,500 volunteers who contributed over 91,000 hours of volunteer service to more than fifty City volunteer programs.

Volunteer opportunities include: working in City offices; participating in Police and Fire department activities; working on computer projects; helping to clean and beautify City parks; getting involved with disaster preparedness and serving on the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT); participating in neighborhood and street cleanups; serving as a tour docent at historical landmark sites; assisting with environmental projects; working as a language translator or summer camp assistant; and much more.



CERT volunteers conduct a fire extinguisher drill.

The City offers:

- Volunteer opportunities for individuals, groups, teens and adults.
- Community service and service-learning projects for students.
- Internships for college students.
- Community service hours for traffic violations.

For more information on how you can get involved, please visit the City's website at www.fremont.gov/community/volunteering, or log on to national volunteer websites such as www.volunteermatch.org or www.volunteeronline.org to learn more. You may also contact Volunteer Services Manager Debra Nunn at dnunn@ci.fremont.ca.us or 790-6754.

Neighborhoods

Housing Programs Provide Assistance

First Time Homebuyer Program

The City's First Time Homebuyer Program (FTHB) enables eligible families who live or work in Fremont to purchase their first single-family home, townhouse, or condominium anywhere within the city limits of Fremont. The program provides up to \$40,000 in down payment assistance. Interested buyers can meet with City staff to discuss home buying tips and apply for down payment assistance.

Inclusionary Housing Ordinance

Another tool recently developed by the City to boost home ownership is the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance. This ordinance requires all new residential projects to reserve 15%

of the development as affordable and offer it at below market-rate prices.

More Information

To become eligible to purchase below market-rate homes, or to apply for the City's First Time Homebuyer Program, you must enroll in the First Time Homebuyer Program class. Apply online at www.fremont.gov/Community/Housing/FTHB or call 494-4500. Classes are offered the last Tuesday of each month.

To learn more about the City's housing programs, please visit our website at www.fremont.gov/Community/Housing or you may request a brochure by contacting the Office of Housing and Redevelopment at 494-4500.

Loans, Grants Available for Home Improvements

The winter months can take a toll on your home. Before the summer heats up, spring may be a good time to work on home improvements such as a new roof, electrical or plumbing system upgrades, energy efficient windows, exterior/interior painting, or landscaping and fence repair.

Under the City's Neighborhood Home Improvement Program, eligible homeowners may apply for a low-interest loan or grant to make home improvements inside and outside of their home. For more information about this program and eligible income limits, please contact Redevelopment and Housing Project Manager Bill Cooper at bcooper@ci.fremont.ca.us or 494-4500.

Redevelopment Agency Wins Top Honors

Fremont's Redevelopment Agency received the 2004 Award of Excellence from the California Redevelopment Association (CRA) in the single-family residential category for Adams Avenue Homes, a 17-home affordable housing development for first-time homebuyers. Located in the Irvington Redevelopment Project Area, the 2-story, 3-bedroom homes were developed jointly by Eden Housing and East Bay Habitat for Humanity. The City's Home Fund (federal dollars), the Redevelopment Agency, and the State provided \$4.8 million in financing for development of the project and construction of the newly installed street section fronting the homes.

CRA, a statewide, nonprofit corporation comprised of both public agency and private sector members, created this awards program to promote and highlight the many outstanding examples of communities that have been strengthened and revitalized by redevelopment.

REDEVELOPMENT ROUND-UP

Centerville Unified Site

The Redevelopment Agency has entered into an Exclusive Right to Negotiate Agreement (ERNA) with Charter Properties for the development of the Centerville Unified Site. This 6.58 acre site was formerly an underutilized shopping center and abandoned auto dealership site on Fremont Boulevard. Charter Properties has proposed approximately 62,000 square feet of new retail and 200 apartments located above or near the retail space. For more information about this exciting project, please visit the City's website at www.fremont.gov/Construction/Redevelopment. Or, you may contact Redevelopment Project Manager Jennifer Andersen at jandersen@ci.fremont.ca.us or 494-4518.

Irvington Concept Plan

City staff is working with an ad hoc committee of property owners on the Irvington Concept Plan, published in draft form in October 2002. The plan describes how the district can develop over the next twenty years and will serve as a guiding document for future public and private investment. Staff will seek additional input on this plan from Irvington residents, business owners and property owners before taking it forward to the Planning Commission and City Council for consideration. For more information, please contact Deputy Planning Director Jeff Schwob at jschwob@ci.fremont.ca.us or 494-4440.

Niles Update

The City is working on two important efforts in Niles. First, staff continues to reposition the Niles District as a regional destination for artisans, specialty retailers, and restaurants. Secondly, the environmental clean-up of the five-acre Union Pacific Property, located in the heart of the commercial district on the north side of Niles Boulevard, is moving forward. This progress should enable this key site's potential redevelopment for public, commercial and residential uses. For more information, please contact Redevelopment Project Manager Luke Connolly at lconnolly@ci.fremont.ca.us or 494-4513.



e n v i r o n m e n



Annual Compost Giveaway: A Popular Event *Mark Your Calendar for April 3*

Each year, the City of Fremont, in partnership with BFI and New United Motors Manufacturing Inc. (NUMMI), gives away thousands of bags of compost. This compost is made from local yardwaste and food scraps collected from Fremont residents' green organics cart. Join us for the 9th annual compost giveaway on **Saturday, April 3**, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

The event will be held rain or shine, and while supplies last, at the NUMMI facility located at the south end of Fremont Boulevard. The entrance to the event will be on Grimmer Boulevard east (towards the hills) of the Fremont Boulevard intersection. Follow the signs and watch for the traffic control personnel who will direct you to the loading area. Event staff will place the compost into the cargo area of your vehicle.

Your BFI bill will serve as proof that you are participating in the City of Fremont curbside collection program. Bring your BFI bill for January, February, or March of 2004 and receive two free bags of compost. If your neighbor, friend or family member cannot make the event, you may bring his/her BFI bill and pick up their compost as well.



For more information about this event, please call BFI customer service at 657-3500.

Got Ants?



Information is now available on how to control pesky ants that may be around your kitchen pail or organics cart. To view these handy tips, visit the City's website at www.fremont.gov/environment, or call 494-4740 to request the information by mail.



Mission Creek Restoration Celebration

Join in the Mission Creek Restoration Celebration on **Saturday, April 24**, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and help celebrate the grand opening of a restored riparian trail along Mission Creek. This event is organized by the Math Science Nucleus and partially funded by the City of Fremont.

For more information, please visit the Math Science Nucleus' website at www.ms-nucleus.org.

Food Scraps Go Mainstream

In June of 2003, a new service was provided to residents who have curbside recycling service with BFI. Food scraps can now be placed in your green organics cart (formerly known as "yardwaste" cart). The food scraps are collected, along with your yardwaste, and sent to a commercial composting facility. The nutrient-rich compost is given back to residents at the annual "Compost Giveaway" each spring (see the article to the left).

The City of Fremont recently performed two field surveys (November 2003 and January 2004) to see how many residents use the new food scrap program. We found promising results! Of the residents who set out their green organics carts, approximately 28% had food scraps placed in their carts. This level of participation is consistent with other Alameda County communities that collect food scraps (Castro Valley, San Leandro, and Pleasanton).

Food scraps are a significant portion of the waste Fremont residents throw away (about 20%); it is important to capture this valuable material before it reaches the landfill. Help keep this material out of the landfill by placing your food scraps in the green organics cart.

If you have any questions, comments, or want more information including handy tips on recycling food scraps in Fremont, please call 494-4740 or visit the City's website at www.fremont.gov/Environment.



t a l s e r v i c e s

Top Ten Pollution Prevention Tips for Spring Cleaning

1. Never dump anything down storm drains; the water flows untreated to the San Francisco Bay.
2. Check with carpet cleaners to be sure they dispose of their wastewater properly (in the sewer, not the storm drain).
3. Participate in creek and shoreline cleanups.
4. Sweep your driveway rather than hosing it down.
5. Use local commercial car washes rather than washing vehicles in the driveway.
6. Rake leaves out of the street and gutter and place in your green organics cart for pick up.
7. Check for and fix vehicle leaks; use drip pans until leaks are repaired.
8. Wash paintbrushes coated in water-based paints in the sink. Keep paintbrushes or equipment coated with oil-based paints out of sinks and storm drains; clean these items with a solvent.
9. Take solvents/household chemicals to a Household Hazardous Waste facility (call 1-800-606-6606 for an appointment); do not dispose in trash.
10. Use less-toxic cleaning and pest control products for your home.

Do Something Good for the Earth

Creek Cleanups April 14 & 16

Help keep our waterways clean! In honor of Earth Day and Keep California Beautiful Month, the City of Fremont will host a creek cleanup on **Wednesday, April 14** and **Friday, April 16**, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Please call the City of Fremont Environmental Hotline (494-4741) the first week in April for locations and details.



Volunteers helped clean up Mission Creek last year.

Bay-Friendly Gardening Tours: From Your Backyard to the Bay

Since the new buzzword for people with a green thumb is "Bay-Friendly Gardening," you won't want to miss out on this tour! Get inspired by Bay-Friendly Gardens during the self-guided Natural Garden Tour on **Sunday, May 2**, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Over thirty residential gardens will be featured throughout Alameda County, including a cluster of gardens in Fremont. The tour is co-sponsored by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Alameda County Flood Control District.



This technique includes simplifying garden care, reducing chores, and using as few resources (from water to fertilizer) as possible. Bay-Friendly gardeners work with nature to reduce waste and prevent unnecessary pollution to the San Francisco Bay.

Workshop Series Available

Learn more about Bay-Friendly Gardening techniques by participating in free, hands-on workshops offered this spring and summer by the Alameda County Waste Management Authority.

Workshop topics will include:

- Bay-Friendly Gardening basics
- Building healthy soil
- Composting with worms
- Gardening for wildlife
- Plant selection
- Pest and weed control

Contact and Registration Information:

To register for a tour, request a workshop schedule, or to learn more about these programs, visit www.stopwaste.org or call 510-444-SOIL.

City Budget Quiz

1. Three-quarters of the City's General Fund (discretionary funds) come from:
 - a. property tax, building permit fees, and hotel/motel tax.
 - b. property tax, sales tax, and vehicle license fees.
 - c. sales tax, recreation fees, and traffic tickets.
 - d. car washes, bake sales, and candy sales.
2. What is the average monthly property tax paid per household that goes toward City services?
 - a. \$3 b. \$33 c. \$333 d. None of the above
3. The City's annual cost for a single streetlight is:
 - a. \$0.75
 - b. \$7.50
 - c. \$75.00
 - d. None of the above; street lights grow naturally in Northern California.
4. How many police officers are on the street in patrol at any given time?
 - a. 10-20 b. 20-30 c. 30-40 d. 40-60
5. For every dollar spent on taxable goods in Fremont, how much of the sales tax stays in Fremont to help pay for City services?
 - a. One cent b. Two cents c. Five cents d. Eight cents
6. The Vehicle License Fee (the car tax):
 - a. was raised to historically high levels during 2003.
 - b. has always paid for state programs like education and highways.
 - c. has been a local revenue source for local services since the 1930s.
 - d. all of the above
7. 90% of the City's General Fund tax resources are used for:
 - a. parks and recreation, library, and senior services.
 - b. police, fire, and maintenance of streets and parks.
 - c. welfare, jails, and medical care.
 - d. the mayor's salary.
8. The City spends about \$13 million on emergency medical services. Approximately how much of this amount is supported by the paramedic tax?
 - a. 8% b. 18% c. 80% d. 100%
9. In order to balance the FY 2003/04 budget, the City had to cut the budget by:
 - a. 2%
 - b. 10%
 - c. 20%
 - d. No cuts were necessary; the money tree in Central Park is healthy this year.
10. Retail development is part of the City's plan for long-term financial health. On average, approximately how much sales tax is generated annually for Fremont by a typical big-box store (for example: Target, Fry's, Home Depot)?
 - a. \$30,000 - \$50,000
 - b. \$300,000 - \$500,000
 - c. \$3,000,000 - \$5,000,000
 - d. None, sales tax doesn't apply to consumer goods.

How much do you know about the City's budget?



Test your knowledge by completing our Budget Quiz. The answers are printed at the bottom of the page. For an in-depth explanation of each answer, please visit the City's website at www.fremont.gov/CurrentNews.